

**November 2, 2009**

## **SERMONS FOR SUNDAY**

**November 8, 2009**

a.m. "*A Volunteer Army*"

Scripture: Psalm 110:1-7

p.m. "*The Visible and Invisible*"

Scripture: 2 Kings 6:14-19

### **Philippians-A Practical Book**

Don Hatch

The epistle of Philippians sets forth the heart of the Gospel. In it the doctrine and practices of the Christian life are bound into a unit to form a sublime portrait of godly living. The letter is intensely personal. It marks the free and spontaneous love between an Apostle and a congregation of brethren. No other epistle expresses the warmth and love that flows from intimate friends with a common goal. The words "brethren", "beloved" and "saint" demonstrate there is a wonderful bond. Paul called them "beloved", pouring out his love upon them with fellowship that endured though separated by many miles. His love was not mingled with indignation or grief as was the case with other epistles he had written. Corinthians and Galatians are but two examples of terse letters. However, the Philippians had proved their loyalty to Christ. Chapter two serves as safety measures to remind them that the journey was long and hard, but they could persevere.

"In Christ" is a significant phrase. It characterizes the place where spiritual blessings are found. Paul used the phrase "in Christ" eight times in Philippians, thirty-eight times in all other epistles combined and used "in Christ Jesus" forty-one times in his letters. Thus, he describes the closest of unions which mankind can have with Deity. For the Christian all of his designs, activities, purposes and hopes are "in Christ". For the Christian to live is to "live in Christ". Paul was in an unfortunate circumstance in jail. Yet, he could speak of the joy found in Jesus Christ. This great soldier of Christ was in prison, chained night and day, with few friends to cheer him and many enemies seeking to destroy him and adding to his afflictions, but in Christ was a haven for his soul.

The congregation in Philippi was clearly a congregation spiritually organized (Phil 1:1-3). They had followed New Testament patterns in organization. Hence, the unity they had with Christ and the apostles was doctrinally correct. If it was found that one congregation was faithful to

the divine pattern it can reasonably infer that others were in like manner faithful. Since all congregations were to be alike there were many men who had met the qualifications for elder, deacon and evangelist (1 Tim 3:1-13; Tit 1:5-16; Acts 20:17-35; 6:1-6). When inspired men ceased, these leaders carefully maintained a unity of the Spirit with doctrinal purity. Elders, deacons and evangelists were for the building up of the body of Christ that it might not be blown about by every wind of doctrine, slight of men in craftiness after the wiles of error (Eph 4:1-16). Contending for the faith means being set for the defence of the confirmation of the gospel (Phil 1:16). A love for souls prompts the church to rightly divide the word of truth and shun profane babbling which progresses further and further into ungodliness (2 Tim 2:14-19). The church knows how to behave themselves and discern the schemes of evil men. When God is supreme in lives of the church it is at its strongest. The history of the church was written in the blood of martyrs who defended the faith (1 Pet 3:15; Phil 1:17).

The sound doctrine instructs women to teach as God intended. Women teach children and other women (Tit 2:3-5). God's word teaches how to teach and the Philippian women engaged in handling this primary role with dignity. Women labor in the gospel (Phil 4:2, 3). Women were taught that under the correct circumstances they could take an active role in teaching. Women never exercised dominion over a man (1 Tim 2:7-12). She would never at any time, under any circumstance place herself in any situation or allow herself to be placed in a position where there was any risk of exercising dominion over a man [Spiritual Sword July 1975].

Philippians was written to help the church express gratitude. The grace and salvation of God should call forth expressions of gratitude. Paul was grateful for the fidelity of the Philippian brethren and expressed it. Gratitude needs to be expressed. Filling the mind and heart with joy is the beginning of an unspeakable life full of glory and peace. The Philippians fully shared in salvation and the deep sense of joy was a strong bond between the apostle and brethren. Prevailing in this congregation was a desire to be fellow-members of the body, fellow-partakers of the promises, fellow-heirs and fellow-workers with the apostles. Any available occasion to give God the glory was taken. Christ-mindedness suggests a comprehensive knowledge of the gospel's blessings, promises and an optimistic hope of eternal life. The church in Philippi gratefully received God's love, grace, and mercy.

Lessons from Philippians are: The art of rejoicing is learned from the apostolic doctrine (Phil 4:4). The character of gentleness is emphasized and accorded a primary role in Christian's life. Worry is set aside by finding that all things can be done through Christ (Phil 4:13). The sentinel of peace is found in the absence of discord. Peace guards the emotions and wellbeing of an individual. Keeping the heart, soul and mind in harmony with God is accomplished by being in Christ Jesus. A prescription for a full life is filling it with doing good unto others. It is absolutely impossible to have a beautiful mind, heart and will and a repulsive life. The secret of contentment is faith and optimism. Listen intensely, search for truth, select the narrow way and do not be afraid. God will be with you in life or death (Mat 28:18-20; Heb 13:6). Paul wrote to the Philippian congregation to encourage them to faithfulness.

~ Don Hatch

## **FAMILY CARE: A Message from Our Shepherds**

The most frightening thing in our society today is a great many people believe there are many roads leading to salvation. They will argue, "What makes you think your way is right? My way is just as good as your way." With thousands of different so called religions claiming to have the truth with different views on the subject of salvation and being Christ like. What do the Scriptures say and how many ways are mentioned?

The Lord said the gate is small, the way is narrow, and there are few people who will find it (Matt, 7:14). Now, for us to get there we must enter by the narrow door, which means we must live as Jesus gave us the example to live, in order to obtain eternal life. Anyone who climbs up some other way is like a thief and a robber (John 10:1). Jesus plainly tells us that He is the door (John 10:9).

In the Scriptures (God's Word) there is only one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith. one baptism, one God and Father of all (Eph. 4:4-6). From what we have just referenced we can see there is only one way to the Father and his Kingdom and thus to receive eternal life (John 14:6). We must remember, it is impossible for God to lie and no lie is of the truth (Heb. 6:18; 1 John 2:21).

We are going to be judged by the words in the Bible and by our works (Re v.20:12). If we live a life of righteousness and good works, our names will be recorded in the book of life (Luke 10:20). Those who live their lives according to the Scriptures will be resurrected to eternal life (John 5:28-29; Matt. 5:16).

Sometimes we depart this life very quickly, and sometimes we have the opportunity to lend support and offer many prayers. God's will is first and final. We must live our lives as the early Christians did in the first century according to the Scriptures. We must make preparation for the wonderful life to come, obeying and living as the Scriptures teach and command us. (Read 2 Pet. 3:8-18)

If we are not gathered with saints when we are physically able, we ought to re-think our position. The whole congregation is not complete without everyone present that could be. Hope to see you soon gathered with saints that miss you very much!

Continue to pray for our sick & shut-ins, and have a great week serving God!

~ Dean Webb

### **KNOWING AND TRUSTING GOD**

"I will give thanks unto Jehovah with my whole heart; I will show forth all thy marvellous works. I will be glad and exult in thee; I will sing praise to thy name, O thou Most High. When mine enemies turn back, they stumble and perish at thy presence. For thou hast maintained my right and my cause; Thou sittest in the throne judging righteously. Thou hast rebuked the nations, thou hast destroyed the wicked; Thou hast blotted out their name forever and ever. The enemy are come to an end, they are desolate for ever; And the cities which thou hast overthrown, the very remembrance of them is perished. But Jehovah sitteth as king for ever: He hath prepared

his throne for judgment; and he will judge the world in righteousness, He will minister judgment to the peoples in uprightness. Jehovah also will be a high tower for the oppressed, A high tower in times of trouble; And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee; for thou, Jehovah, hast not forsaken them that seek thee” (Psm 9:1-10).

Through the centuries the name of God has proven to be trustworthy. His faithfulness is from generation unto generation (Psm 45:17; 71:18). He never changes. God manifested Himself to generations of mankind through loving kindness and with demonstrations of His power. He is known by Elohim [All Powerful], El-Elyon [Most High], El-Roi [God of Heaven], El Shaddai [Almighty], Adonai [Master], Rock, Father and Jehovah [I am that I am]. Each of these and other names manifests an attribute of God wherein mankind can come to know the power and purity of God. He has never failed mankind in any generation. He is the Almighty Creator and Sustainer of the universe. When mankind learns that God was willing to send His Son to save them He is loved and honored (Rom 8:31-19). Christ was God and emptied Himself of Godhood becoming a man and servant to man (Phil 2:1-10; Jn 1:1-17). God wants mankind to know of His great love, mercy, peace and joy, this knowledge will under-pens trust. Trust engenders obedience and loyalty.

Trusting is when there is confidence based upon evidences (Heb 11:1, 2). How wonderful and grand it is to know and trust God. God is relevant to our daily lives. He supplies our every need. Nothing enlarges the intellect and magnifies man’s soul like being devout, earnest and pious. All righteous attributes are learned from God. It is exceedingly important to improve the mind, heart and will of man by contemplation of God. Other subjects can be grappled with and in them one can feel a certain self-contentment and go on to other thoughts. When we try to master who and what God is we find ourselves in the deepest thoughts known to man. Mankind can find a refuge in God. Trust in God is well placed because He never forsakes those who truly trust and obey Him. The Bible confirms this in countless ways (Deut 31:6; Heb 13:1-6; Josh 1:5; Psm 118:6).

Seeking to know and trust in God is a holy and righteous pursuit. It is a worthy thing for the heart, mind and soul of mankind to be engaged in knowing and trusting God.

~ Don Hatch

## **GREETER ASSIGNMENTS**

### **Sunday, November 8, 2009**

**Front foyer:** Richard & Carolyn Renfro

**Back foyer:** Stan & Doris Selby

### **Sunday, November 15, 2009**

**Front foyer:** Robert & Betty Ruckman

**Back foyer:** Ilene Ashworth, Carol Swinney

## Family News:

### MISSION PRINTING

Mission Printing will meet **Sunday** at 4:00 p.m. in the Jr. Auditorium.

### SINGING SESSION

The **Sunday afternoon** singing session will meet in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.

### MENS' GATHERING/DEVOTIONAL

The **Monday morning** devotional will meet at 6:00 a.m. in the Annex.

### LADIES

Ladies' Bible Class for **Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>** is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. with a lesson by Jan Smithson on "Staying in the Circle: Continual Cleansing".

### CONGRATULATIONS

Our **Amber Vaughan** was inducted into the National Honor Society last Monday evening at Nimitz High School. Way to go, Amber; you make us proud!

### THANK YOU

We want to thank Brother Bill Burk for the great series of lessons on What It Means To Follow Jesus. Brother Burk's lessons were taped and would be great resources for friends and family. The Gospel Meeting allowed us to look at Jesus the man, following Jesus as a disciple, in the home, in the community, in difficult times and what it means to be a member of His church. We had a number of visitors and two responses. The work making this a success was amply rewarded; God was glorified, the church was edified and the community was able to know The Truth of the Gospel of Salvation. I hope you read Brother Yeakley's article in this week's bulletin about the church. What Brother Yeakley said concerning not being discouraged and his demonstration that the church is growing and strong is good news. Brother Burk's lessons demonstrated that the Church of Christ is alive and well. We deeply appreciate what everyone did to make the meeting a success. To God be the glory! ~Don Hatch

### NEWS OF THE SICK

- Mike Garrison** is ill at home with a cold.
- Vera Gleghorn** is suffering with hypertension.
- Hank Henry** had 2 molars pulled last week.
- Lyda McAlister** got a good report on the 2 carcinoma that were removed last week.
- Max Melton** will undergo a stress test this Friday (11/6).
- Leo Townsend** is pondering treatment for cancer; he is also suffering with gout.
- Myrtle Wade** will undergo another leg surgery this Friday (11/6).

- Audrey Price** (Roberta's granddaughter) has the H1N1 flu.
- Marinell Zaun** is home not feeling well.
- The Henry's** twin great-grandbabies are doing better, however, Maddox is still in guarded care.
- Ronnie Vaughn** (Dessie Ross' son) is having a procedure for a defibrillator today (11/2) in Abilene.

**Continuing Prayer Concerns:**

Ilene Ashworth, Grady Fowler, Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Don & Judy Hancock, Jean Kelly, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Garldean Latham, Elsie Nanney, Everett Newton, Tom & Billie Prince, Frances Seidmeyer, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Charlie & Mary DiPalma (missionaries), Louise Gierling (former member Tom Gierling's mother), Dalton Gordon (Elizabeth Garrison's great nephew).

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Be sure and mark your calendar -**

- November 8 Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- November 8: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- November 10: Ladies' Bible Class & lunch at 9:30a.m. in the Annex

**LORD'S TABLE/MORNING**

**Front Table**

- Purman Cofer
- Jerry Baker
- Dorris Walker
- Marvin Brown
- Mike Garrison
- Bill Matthews
- Ty Harvey
- Rob Farmer

**Rear Table**

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Max Melton
- Keith Vaughn
- Derrol Allen
- Roy Martin
- Bobby Bowen
- Brandon Howard

**SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS**

- Dean Webb
- Denzil Myers
- Jerry McKey

**A.M. SCRIPTURE READING**

- Ty Harvey  
Psalm 110:1-7

**A.M. SONG LEADER**

- Garl Latham

**SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS**

- Bill Matthews
- Bill Paschall

**P.M. SCRIPTURE READING**

- Nathan Allen  
2 Kings 6:14-19

**P.M. SONG LEADER(S)**

- Jerry Baker

**LORD'S TABLE/EVENING**

- Darrell Allen
- Garl Latham

## **COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS**

· Mike Batot

### **FOR THE RECORD: WEEK ENDING ATTENDANCE & BUDGET**

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	72	101	92	125
A.M. Worship	145	173	156	210
P.M. Worship	91	94	85	112
Wed. Class	64	105	82	110
Ladies Bible Class	18	22	22	35
Contribution	\$4417	\$7322	\$5381	\$5474

### ***MISSIONS***

Charlie & Mary DiPalma - India  
Willie & Del Gley – Ghana/Togo, Africa  
Roland & Rose Mohsen – France  
Gary & Nadya Workman – Ukraine  
Glen & KuinTattersall – Australia  
Oleg & Natasha Yakimenko - Russia  
Wil & Telanda Sadler – Military Missions  
Christ's Haven Children's Home - Keller, TX  
Foster's Home for Children – Stephenille, TX  
Bitragunta Church of Christ, Bitragunta, India  
Ian & Mabel McPherson – Tasmania Australia  
Wayne Jackson – Christian Courier on the Web  
Ted Lingren - Sisophon Bible School – Cambodia  
Mission Printing Worldwide Literature Distribution  
Terry & Pam Laurence – Ft. Defiance, Arizona – Navajo Nation  
Dennis & Beth Johnson - Chennai Teacher Training School – India